



Bear Facts

ol. 12, No. 1

Happy Halloween Edition



Lafayette Halloween Parade Is Coming!

by Lucy Sakura, 5S

The Lafayette Halloween Parade is coming soon! As always, all Lafayette students show off their creative costumes at the parade. Everyone will be involved in the parade. Then, back in the classrooms, students participate in fun Halloween games and activities (thanks to the room parents and teachers who supervise the many classroom parties). I interviewed Ms. Snowden, who plans the parade here at Lafayette.

BF: How long have you been planning this year's parade?
Ms. Snowden: Since last year's parade.

BF: Has the parade changed much over past years that Lafayette has been doing it?
Ms. S.: Years ago, there used to be a costume competition, and this year's parade route has changed because of the fences.

BF: Is the parade difficult to plan? Why or why not?
Ms. S.: No, the parade pretty much runs itself. The teachers know what to do as well as the students who have been here before.

BF: Will there be any more changes about the parade this year?
Ms. S.: It's a half day of school, so everything will be before lunch.

New Parade Route

Due to the construction fences around the playground on the hill, the parade route has changed from the route used in past years.

This year, after classes have met in the front of the school, the parade will turn left (toward Northampton St.); then turn left on Northampton and go past the Pre-K entrance. Next, the parade will proceed through the teachers' parking lot. The classes will go around the track twice.

Lafayette's Halloween Parade will be just as much fun as last year's.
 --Lucy Sakura, 5S



Sketch of the construction fences around the hill.

Contents:

Fall Festival.....2
Ms. Jensen Interview.....2
Life after Lafayette.....3
Wedding Bells for Ms. Betz.4
Renovation Scoop.....4
Life Way after Lafayette.....5
Ms. Cacibauda.....6

Meet Ms. McGrath.....7
Craving Candy.....7
Mr. Martin of Gold Base..8
Welcome Mr. Utunba.....9
Spooky Stories.....9
Dr. Broquard Interview..10
Eye-popping Pizza.....10
Ms. R likes to teach.....11
Ghostly Milkshake.....11
Who Do You Trick-or-Treat with?.....12
Cute Baby Costumes....12
Halloween Traditions....13
Popular Costumes.....14
More Spooky Stories....15
Rascal Rat.....16
OOOPS!.....17
Last Minute Costumes..18
Halloween Jokes.....19-20

We enjoyed the Fall Festival on Saturday!

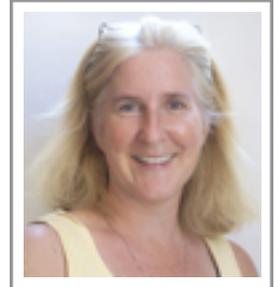


Perfect Weather for a Perfect Fall Festival

by Brendan McKalip, 4S

Lafayette E.S celebrated its annual fall festival on Saturday, October 25 from 3-5 pm. Even though the festival is always a rain-or-shine event, it was a perfect fall day. The festival included games, moon bounces, face painting, crafts, drinks, Armand's Pizza, a bake sale, and the beloved haunted house. The movie "How to Train Your Dragon 2" was shown from 5:30-7 pm in the cafeteria with free popcorn and candy for all. A wristband that cost \$15 was required for most activities. Hope you had an excellent time at this year's annual fall festival!

STUDENT COUNCIL



Ms. Jensen on the Student Council

by Manoela Barretto and Zoey Chineme, 5G

We interviewed third grade teacher, Ms. Lisa Jensen about the Student Council and the upcoming elections. Here's what she had to say.

Bear Facts: Hi Mrs. Jensen! Can we ask you a few questions?

Ms. Jensen: Sure.

BF: How long have you been in charge of student council?

Ms. J.: I have been in charge for seven years.

BF: Did you ever get tired of being in charge?

Ms. J.: I've enjoyed working with the student council so far.

BF: We know your children went to Lafayette. Did you have a child who ran for student council?

Ms. J.: Two of my children, my daughter Izzy and my son, Cooper, ran for office.

BF: What positions were they interested in and did they win?

Ms. J.: Izzy ran for secretary and won. Cooper ran for treasure but didn't win

BF: If you had to run for student council, what position would you choose and why?

Ms. J.: President, so I could give my ideas and more people would listen.

BF: When you were young, did you run for your school's student council?

Ms. J.: No, I didn't

BF: Did you ever regret not running?

Ms. J.: I never thought about it but I suppose I do regret it.

BF: How many positions are there on the student council?

Ms. J.: Four. President, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

BF: Have there ever been more than four positions?

Ms J.: Yes, at one time there was a Sergeant-at-Arms. That position was done away with some years ago.

BF: When Lafayette had 6th grade were 5th graders able to run for Student Council?

Ms. J.: No, they weren't able to run for office. Of course, they could run for classroom reps.

BF: Thanks for your time!

Ms. J.: You're welcome.

LIFE AFTER LAFAYETTE

by Esther Nachbar-Seckel, 5G

Have you ever wondered how you might feel after you leave this great school? I have! That's why I brought my brother Zac into the picture. Zac is a junior at Wilson High who--long ago--went to Lafayette.



Former Lafayette student Zac Nachbar-Seckel is now a junior at Wilson High.

Bear Facts: Hi Zac.

Zac Nachbar-Seckel: Hey.

BF: Were you sad when you left Lafayette?

Zac: Yeah, I was a little bit sad, but also excited.

BF: Why were you sad?

Z: Sad to be leaving friends and teachers I knew.

BF: Did you like middle school at first?

Zac: I liked it okay. At first I was intimidated by the unfamiliar environment. But I got used to it.

BF: Were you nervous about going to middle school?

Zac: Yes. Nervous of the big kids.

BF: Who were your teachers when you were at Lafayette? Who was your favorite teacher?

Zac: Ms.Ghamarian, Ms.Shapiro, Ms.Howard, Ms.Nickel, Ms.Tepfer, Ms.Culver, Ms.Betz. My two favorite teachers were Ms.Nickel and Ms.Betz because they were chill.

BF: Why did you like Lafayette?

Zac: I really liked the teachers. I loved the percussion ensemble and track. I also really liked art and gym. Lafayette was a good school but it wasn't just purely academic, I also liked a lot of other things there.

BF: What was your favorite subject at Lafayette? Is it different now?

Zac: I didn't really have a favorite subject. I liked gym and lunch. Now I like humanities and language.

BF: Did you ever do announcements? If so, what did you talk about?

Zac: Yes, I did announcements once. It was my first and last time. I was supposed to talk about Harriet Tubman. My friend Abby had done announcements without a paper a few weeks before. I told her I could do that, too. When I got there, I froze. Shout out to my manz, Afsheen for helping me out in that sticky situation.

BF: Thanks for your time, Zac.

Zac: No problem.



I read
**RASCAL
RAT**, do
you?



An Interview with Ms. Betz (Now Mrs. D!)

by Ellen Carrier, 5G and Alexa Feldman, 5R.

Lafayette math specialist and former fifth grade teacher, Ms. Erin Betz, got married earlier this month. Even though her married name will be Mrs. Duchinsky, she will continue to be Ms. Betz at school. Here's how she was feeling when we interviewed her before the big day.

Bear Facts: How are you?

Ms. B: Stressed out but excited!

BF: Can we ask you some questions?

Ms. B: Yes.

BF: We heard you are getting married! Are you really excited?

Ms. B: Very excited.

BF: How many people are coming to the wedding?

Ms. B: As of yesterday, 90.

BF: When are you getting married?

Ms. B: Saturday, October 18.

BF: Do you have a theme for your wedding? If so, what is it?

Ms. B: Modern and streamlined. Ha,ha!

BF: Is the wedding hard to put together?

Ms. B: I tried to keep it simple but there are always last minute things.

BF: Where is your wedding going to be?

Ms. B: Malcolm X Park, aka, Meridian Hill Park.

BF: Where did you get your wedding dress?

Ms. B: Macy's.

BF: Are you nervous?

Ms. B: Yes! I'm nervous about everything coming together, but I know it will be great.

BF: Will you have flower girls?

Ms. B: No flower girls and no bridesmaids.

BF: Thank you!

Ms. B: Absolutely!

Inside Scoop on the Renovations

photos and story by Addy Darnell, 4F, Paulina Inglima, 4CJ and Eliza Vassalo, 4M

You may have heard about the renovations that are coming soon, and that's why we wrote this story. As you may or may not know, there are going to be renovations on the school that are set to begin when school ends this year. We wanted you to get an inside scoop so we interviewed Mr. Catapano, a fourth grade teacher, who is on the renovation committee.

First, we asked Mr. C. about what will be new. He told us that there will be a new gym, a new cafeteria, and some green spaces. "The new renovations will take one year," he explained.

Then we asked him where the students will be during all this work. "Well, we're not sure yet. Either half of the school will stay in the building and the other half of the school will be in trailers or the whole school will be in trailers."

We also interviewed Assistant Principal Mayhew about the scheduled renovations. She said that we will have other places for the kids, and finally closed classrooms! We also asked her about where the students will be. She said that they didn't know yet. As you can see, Lafayette is changing a lot. A newer, better, stronger school is coming soon!



Mr. Catapano



Ms. Mayhew

Life Way after Lafayette

by Abigail Evans and Hannah Bocian, 5S

Usually in Life After Lafayette we write about middle schoolers and high schoolers but in this edition we are going to write about a teacher who was a former student at Lafayette. **Did you know that the new fifth grade teacher, Ms. Skubel, went to Lafayette?** We interviewed her to see what life at Lafayette was like when she was a kid.

Bear Facts: Hello, do you mind if we ask you a few questions?

Ms. Skubel: No, not at all.

BF: Did you do any sports for the Lafayette Bears?

Ms. S: No.

BF: Are there any teachers that were at Lafayette when you were here and are still here today?

Ms. S: Yes. Ms. Culver, Ms. Phillips, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Echave and Ms. Snowden.

BF: Who was your favorite teacher when you went to Lafayette?

Ms. S: They were all wonderful.

BF: What was your favorite subject?

Ms. S: Science.

BF: Is there anything that we have now that you wish Lafayette had then?

Ms. S: Computers, ST math, and Peace Class.

BF: Did you go to school with any other teachers here?

Ms. S: Ms. Campbell and Ms. Cacibauda, but that was after I left Lafayette. I went to St. Patrick's with Ms. Campbell and I went to graduate school at George Washington University with Ms. Cacibauda.

BF: What did Lafayette look like when you were a kid?

Ms. S: Exactly the same as it does now.

BF: Did you go to Deal after Lafayette?

Ms. S: No. After Lafayette, I went to St. Patrick's and then to St. Andrew's

BF: Thank you for your time.

Ms. S: You're welcome.



Ms. Cara Skubel is a former Lafayette student!



Congratulations to Coach Murray & Lafayette's Award-winning Boys' and Girls' Cross Country Teams!

Welcome to First Grade, Ms. Cacibauda

by Maddie Feldman, 5G, and Zoe Kaplan, 5S

Bear Facts interviewed the new first grade teacher, Ms. Cacibauda. Do you remember her? She was a student teacher for Ms. Paul last year. Ms. Paul left and is currently teaching in France. Here is what Ms. Cacibauda had to say:

Bear Facts: Hi! Welcome to Lafayette.

Ms. Cacibada: Thank you.

BF: Have you been a teacher anywhere else?

Ms. C: No. Just Lafayette.

BF: Why did you pick first grade to teach?

Ms. C: Ummm. Because I really like teaching children how to read.

BF: Did you like being a student teacher?

Ms. C: I did. Ms. Paul was a good supervising teacher, and did you know, she did her student teaching here too?

BF: Wow! That's interesting. Are you married?

Ms. C: Yes. I got married last October.

BF: Have you been a student teacher anywhere else? If so, what grade?

Ms. C: Yes. I was a student teacher at Arlington Science, and I helped teach third grade there.

BF: What college did you attend?

Ms. C: I went to the University of Virginia for undergrad, and George Washington University for grad school.

BF: Do you have any sort of pet?

Ms. C: No, I don't have any pets.

BF: Are you excited for Halloween?

Ms.C: Yes, I love Halloween.

BF: What are you and the other first grade teachers going to be?

Ms. C: It's a surprise. You'll have to wait to see.

BF: What is your favorite subject to teach?

Ms. C: Ummm. I really like to teach writing. I also really like to do Writer's Workshop on Fridays.

BF: Thanks for your time!

Ms. C: Thank you, girls! It's my pleasure!



Ms. Cacibauda loves teaching first graders to read.

Meet Ms. McGrath

by Leah Perlmutter, 4M

Among the changes this year was the addition of a fifth fourth grade class. It meets out in a trailer, too. The trailer that used to be for special education last year is now a lively classroom and the new fourth grade teacher is Ms. Megan McGrath.

Bear Facts: Do you mind if I ask you some questions?

Ms. McGrath: No, not at all.

BF: Where are you from?

Ms. McG.: Scranton, Pennsylvania.

BF: What inspired you to become a teacher?

Ms. McG.: My second grade teacher was so nice. She inspired me.

BF: How long have you been teaching?

Ms. McG.: I have been teaching for 24 years.

BF: What other grade have you taught besides 4th grade?

Ms. McG.: I have taught kindergarten.

BF: Do you enjoy teaching?

Ms. McG.: I love teaching.

BF: Do you think that this will be a great first year at Lafayette?

Ms. McG.: Yes, I certainly do. I have a great class.



Ms. McGrath was inspired to become a teacher by her 2nd grade teacher.

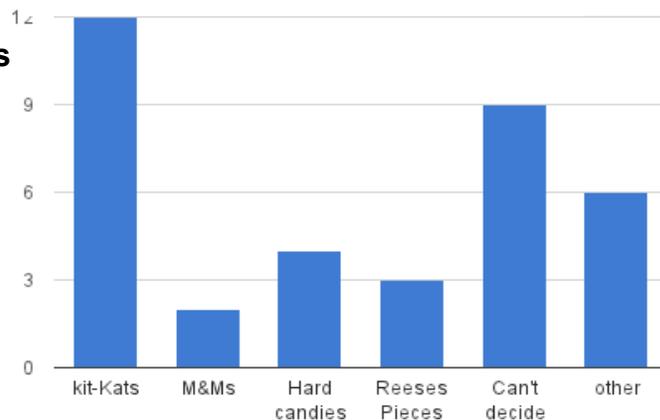
CRAVING CANDY!

by Ella Davis, 4F, and Alli Bowman, 5G

We wanted to see what candy kids love most! So we interviewed four students from each 4th and 5th grade class to find out their favorites! Here are the results:

4th and 5th grades favorite candies

Look out for these treats in your bags! Happy Halloween! Yum!



by Ella Davis and Alli Bowman



Mr. Martin of Gold Base

by Katie Blick, 4M, Harper Dunn, 5S, Ella Hunter, 4M, and Katie Kennedy, 5C

This year at Lafayette, there is a new kindergarten teacher and a new “base” being introduced to the school. Mr. Joe Martin is teaching gold base! Here is the inside scoop on how Mr. Martin came to Lafayette and how gold base, well... happened!

Bear Facts: Hi Mr. Martin! May we ask you some questions for Bear Facts, our school newspaper?

Mr. M.: Yes, of course. Yes, you may ask me some questions.

BF: Where did you grow up?

Mr. M.: I grew up in Fredericksburg Virginia.

BF: What school did you teach at before Lafayette?

Mr. M.: I taught third grade at Beauvoir, and the National Cathedral School.



Mr. Martin likes gold base and Lafayette.

BF: When you came to Lafayette, did you get to pick the color of your base? If not, who picked it out?

Mr. M.: Originally, they picked pink. I changed it to gold because I really like gold. I had no idea that there were so many colors already in use.

BF: Why did you want to be a kindergarten teacher?

Mr. M.: Well, I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher because, kindergartners are very excited to learn almost anything, and they bring a lot of brightness.

BF: Why did you want to teach at Lafayette?

Mr.M.: I heard it was a great school. The faculty was welcoming, and it is a neighborly school.

BF: What does gold base do on a typical day?

Mr. M.: All sorts of things. We really have fun learning things throughout the day.

BF: How do you like Lafayette so far?

Mr. M.: I am really liking it. I have some really great students, families and co-workers.

BF: Thank you!

Mr.M.: You're welcome!

Welcome Mr. Otunba

by Haley Howard and Sofia Jaime, 4M

Bear Facts: Hello! How is your day going?

Mr.Otunba: My day is going well.

BF: Thank you for agreeing to let us interview you. What did you do before you were a second grade teacher?

Mr. O.: I worked in special education and as a L.A.P counselor.

BF: Wow that seems like fun. Did you want to be a teacher when you grew up?

Mr. O.: No, actually, I wanted to be a singer.

BF: When you were little, what was your favorite subject in school?

Mr. O.: Math.

BF: Whose place did you take in second grade--if you took somebody's place?

Mr. O.: Ms. Harn. She moved up to third grade and that left a position for a second grade teacher open. So, I applied and got the job.

BF: Did you ever teach at another school?

Mr. O.: No. All my experience has been at Lafayette.

BF: If second grade didn't exist would you still want to teach? If so, what grade?

Mr. O.: Yes. I would want to teach either first or kindergarten.

BF: Where did you grow up?

Mr.O.: In Silver Spring. I've lived in DMV. [D.C.-Maryland-Virginia]

BF: We have to get to class. Thank you for your time, Mr. Otunba.

Mr. O.: Thank you for interviewing me.



Mr. Otunba teaches second grade.

Bear Facts Presents:

Spooky Stories



Compiled by Jei Whitt, 4F

When you think Halloween you think spooky stories right? Here are three different spooky stories that I have collected from 4F and 2K. The Bear Facts staff hopes you have a BOO-tiful time reading them!

Begin reading spooky stories on lucky number PAGE 15!!

Get to Know Dr. Broquard

by *Katie Blick, 4M, Harper Dunn, 5S, Ella Hunter, 4M, and Katie Kennedy, 5C*

This year Lafayette has a new principal, Dr. Carrie Broquard. We interviewed her to find out the latest scoop on what's happening at the top of the school.

Bear Facts: Where did you grow up?

Dr. Broquard:: Central Illinois in a very small town, with 3,000 people.

BF: Have you ever been an elementary school teacher?

Dr. B.: No. I taught 7th grade science, and 9th-12th grade chemistry.

BF: How do you like Lafayette so far?

Dr. B.: I love it! The kids, the teachers, and the parents are amazing, it's a really, really great place.



Dr. Carrie Broquard is Lafayette's new principal.

BF: What do you like most about Lafayette?

Dr. B.: Wow, that's a really hard question. I think it's the sense of family.

BF: How do you spend your day at Lafayette?

Dr. B.: I have a very busy day here. Basically, I do a little bit of everything.

BF: Where did you live before DC?

Dr. B.: I have lived in Philadelphia, Australia, and Los Angeles.

BF: What was your favorite subject in school?

Dr. B.: I love science.

BF: Do you have any kids at Lafayette?

Dr. B.: Yes, two. A second grader and a kindergartner.

BF: Thank you for your time. Bye!

Dr. B.: Goodbye!

Yummy Eye-Covered Pizza

by *Zoe Friedman, 5C*

You will need:

a pizza crust
pizza sauce
cheese of your choice
olives
mozzarella balls
pepperoni



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Then take the crust out and spread the sauce on. Then sprinkle the cheese on. Then lay on the pepperoni. On top of each one add a cheese ball. Lastly, top it off with the olives. Put the eye pizza in the oven until the crust is golden brown, Then enjoy!

Ms. Raugitinane Loves To Teach

by Alexa Feldman, 5R, Maddie Feldman, 5G, & Tess Cassol-Pawson, 5R



The new fifth grade teacher, Ms. Raugitinane has been EVERYWHERE! To say that she's done a little traveling would be an understatement. She's been in 30 different countries on five different continents! We're awfully glad that she's here at Lafayette for a while and decided to ask her some questions about herself.

Bear Facts: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

Ms. Raugitinane: I love working with children and I think that teachers really can make a difference in the world.

BF: Where did you go to college?

Ms. R.: The University of Connecticut (UCONN). Go Huskies!



BF: Have you always wanted to become a teacher?

Ms. R.: Yes. Well, ever since I was five years old.

BF: How is fifth grade different today than when you were in fifth grade?

Ms. R.: It's really not that much different. I guess that the technology is the big change.

BF: Would you have preferred to have taught a different grade? If so, which?

Ms. R.: I would prefer to teach sixth grade in middle school. I would like just to teach English.

BF: What was your favorite grade when you were little?

Ms. R.: First grade. I had such a good teacher and we also shared the same birthday.

BF: So just how many countries have you visited?

Ms. R.: I've been to 30 countries in Europe, North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. Want me to name them?



BF: No. We have a deadline! Thanks.

Ms. R.: Thank you.



Ghostly Halloween Milkshakes

by Zoe Friedman, 5C

You will need:
a scoop of vanilla ice cream
milk
vanilla extract
chocolate bar
whipped cream

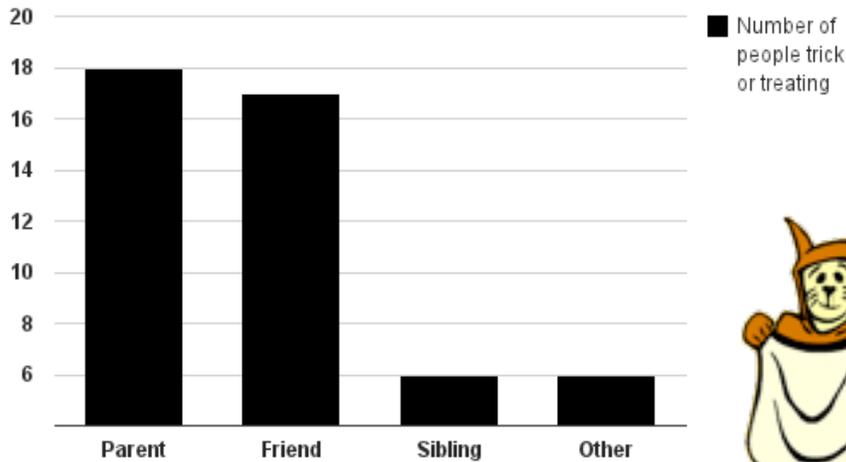
First blend the ice cream, milk and vanilla extract. Once you're done don't just pour it into a cup yet. First you'll have to melt the chocolate in the microwave. After that get clear plastic or glass cups. Use a brush to paint chocolate ghost faces on the cups. Then pour in the milkshake and swirl whipped cream on top and enjoy!

Who Do You Trick or Treat With?

by Sammy Taubman, 5G

Who do you go trick or treating with? I interviewed 3rd and 4th graders about who they were trick or treating with this year. Most kids plan to trick or treat with multiple people. Some examples of what people said when they answered "other" include an uncle, a friend's parent, a cousin, by themselves or a grandparent.

Who People Are Going Trick or Treating With



Baby Halloween Costumes

by Zoe Friedman, 5C



I found these random baby costumes on line. Which is your favorite? Baby costume number 1--the taco, Number 2--the frog, or baby costume Number 3--the pig?



American Halloween Traditions

In the 1800s, Irish and Scottish immigrants brought their Halloween traditions to North America, but Halloween has changed over time. Its connection with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day has been forgotten or is overlooked by most Americans and lots of new Halloween traditions have developed.

For children, dressing up and going trick-or-treating door-to-door is still the main event. Most households in the United States and Canada participate. Those who don't run the risk of getting their houses "egged" or TP'd (That's

Wearing Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating are the most popular American Halloween traditions. Learn about Halloween costumes and other fun traditions.

pelted with eggs or wrapped in toilet paper). Many adults dress up, too. They go out with their children (**See survey on p. 12**) or they attend costume parties and contests.

Halloween continues to be extremely popular with kids of all ages; 85 to 90 percent of U.S. children go trick-or-treating or engage in other Halloween festivities every year, and many adults also join in on the fun. In a recent poll, the National Retail Federation found that 65 percent of U.S. adults between 18 and 34 attended Halloween costume parties or other celebrations.

Other Halloween activities fill the whole month of October. Americans have added scary movies, community haunted houses, ghost stories and Ouija boards to the celebration. Greeting cards and festive decorations are also a big part of Halloween. The holiday is second only to Christmas in total sales for retailers and in 2002, the average American family with young children spent an average of \$62 on Halloween candy, costumes and decorations.



Another common Halloween custom is collecting money for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Kids can do this instead of or in addition to candy. This started in 1950 in Philadelphia, when a Sunday school class had the idea of collecting money for needy children when trick-or-treating. They sent the money they made, about \$17, to UNICEF, which was inspired by the idea and started a trick-or-treat program in 1955. Interested churches, schools and parents can order special orange-and-black collection boxes, along with materials explaining the UNICEF program. To learn how you can participate, check out the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Web page.



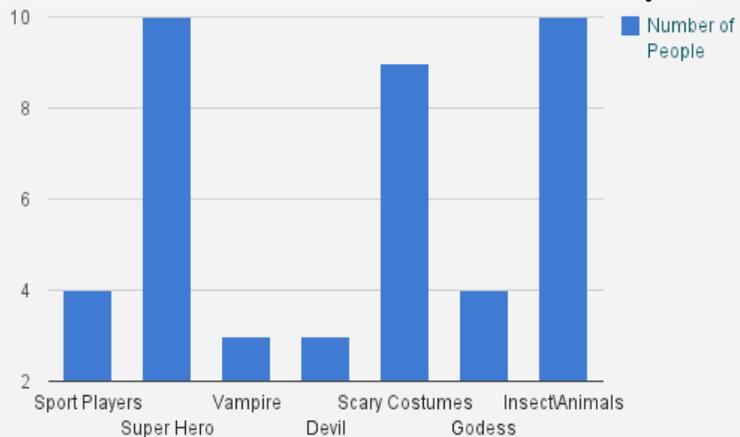
Popular Costumes for Halloween, 2014

by Tusani Jackson, 5C, Justine Hollar, 5G, Reign Mosby, 5G, Jamilah Springer, 5G

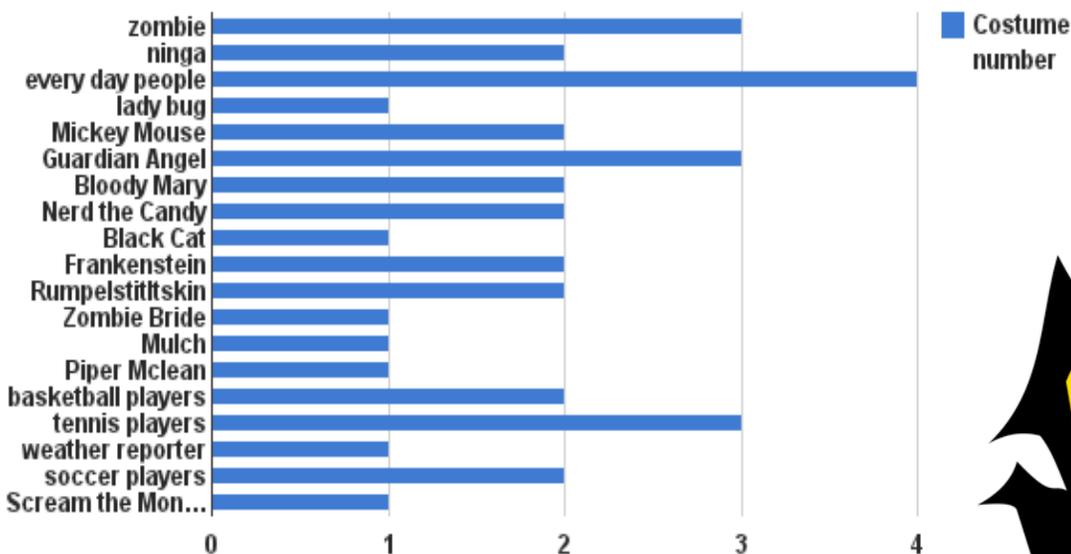
There are many different Halloween costumes, but those listed below are the ones that seem to be the most popular in grades 2 and 5. We wanted your opinion on which are the best costumes, so we conducted a survey. Take a look at the results and expect to see a lot of insects, animals and super heros mixed in with the sports players and vampires at the Halloween parade this Friday, Oct. 31.



Second and Fifth Costume Survey



Third and Fourth Costume Survey



Bear Facts Presents:

Spooky Stories



The Spooky Graveyard!

by Sophie Folds, 2K

There was a zombie in a graveyard. The jack-o-lantern liked chasing the zombie, and the zombie would tell the jack-o-lantern spooky stories. Like the time a scarecrow scared a robin right off the fence. The jack-o-lantern would get so scared he would run away but he always came back the next day for more.



It's Halloween!

by Ellie Sanders, 4F

It was Halloween and Rick and Noel were going trick-or-treating. "All the good candy is on 31st Street!" stated Rick. They decided to take a shortcut through the woods. They started off okay until...

"I think we're lost," Rick called.

Turning the corner they came to a hut in front of their aunt's cabin. They went inside to find a phone. On the floor they saw red dribbles! There was moaning.

They followed the trail of red to the kitchen where they saw their cousin on the floor with a bowl of fries and ketchup!

The Ghost of Lafayette

by Ella Davis, 4F

It was ten minutes before the annual Lafayette Halloween Parade and Clara was stepping into her zombie costume. Suddenly, her hat blew away! As she chased after it, the wind blew it into the basement. So she kept on running. Clara felt a cold breeze blowing. She shuddered,

"Whooo-oo!" a low moaning sound groaned. "You will be my wife! I'm the ghost of Lafayette and you will not escape,"

"Ahhhh-hh!" Clara screamed.

"Plus," it moaned, "you look pretty dead to me!"

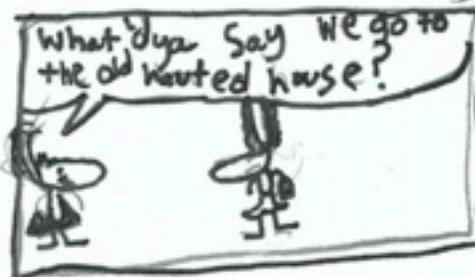
Clara was never heard from again. But on some Halloween nights, the custodians hear her groaning.



Editor's Note: The **Bear Facts** is proud to introduce a new cartoon strip and a new cartoonist this year. We hope you will enjoy fifth grader Ian Barton's cartoon *Rascal Rat* as well as *OOPS!* by Natalie Sipress, Mia Sampson and Cyrah Meredith.

RASCAL RAT IN fearless Fright

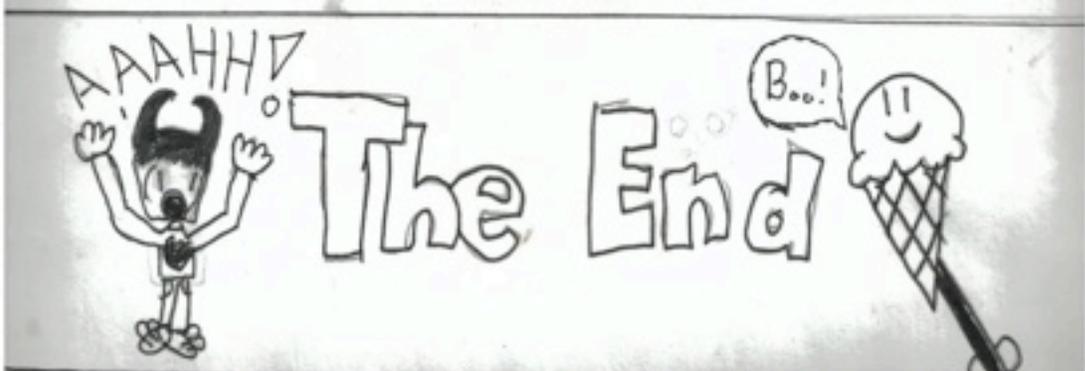
© Ian Barton



OOPS!

↳ Halloween Edition

by Natalie Sypress
Mia Sampson
Cyrus Meredith



Let's Get Creative:

Last Minute Halloween Costumes

by Zoe Friedman, 5C

Oh no! You forgot about Halloween and you don't have enough time to make your Halloween costume! Don't worry. This article has plenty of great costumes you can make at the last minute.

Costume one: The Jelly Bean Bag



What you will need:

- 1) Bright colored balloons
- 2) A lot of plastic wrap
- 3) Jelly bean logo (print out on computer)
- 4) Tape
- 5) Shirt and jeans (to wear under costume)

First, put on your shirt and jeans. Next, wrap your body in the plastic wrap -- remember to make the plastic wrap really baggy not tight. You may have to layer the wrap so it won't break easily. Tape all the openings in the plastic wrap except at the top. Once you are done with the wrap, blow up the balloons and stuff the plastic wrap with the balloons. Now all you have to do is tape on the logo and your ready for Halloween!

Costume Two: The Toilet Paper

Mummy

What you will need:

- 1) a lot of toilet paper
- 2) fake blood
- 3) black eye shadow (optional)
- 4) pants and shirt (to wear under toilet paper)
- 5) plastic bugs and spiders
- 6) glue

First, put on shirt and pants. Next, put black eye shadow all around your eyes to give an aged effect. Then, wrap yourself entirely in toilet paper (except for eyes and nose). When done, glue on plastic bugs on top of the toilet paper. For a little extra creepiness, add some fake blood and you're good to go!



More Creative Last-minute Costumes on Next Page...

Costume Three: Crazy Cat Lady (or any other animal you like)!



What you will need:

- 1) any stuffed animal of your choice
- 2) pajamas and slippers
- 3) green facial cream or other funny face cover
- 4) hair curlers
- 5) safety pins

First, put on the pajamas. Then, attach the stuffed animals with the safety pins. Once you're done, put on the green facial. Lastly, put in the hair curlers -- leave them in for a nice crazy look.

Costume Four: Head in the Hands of a Scientist

What you will need:

- 1) big button down coat
- 2) pillows
- 3) gloves
- 4) duct tape
- 5) boots
- 6) stuffing
- 7) jeans



First, put on the boots and jeans. Then, unbutton the buttons in the middle of the coat -- your head be able to fit in. Next, put on the coat and stick your head through the unbuttoned middle. Once your done, stuff the top of the coat with the pillows so it will stand up. Next, stuff the arms of the coat with the stuffing. Lastly, stuff the gloves with stuffing, and duct tape them on. You're finished!



Halloween Jokes

Here are some funny Halloween jokes by *Boys' Life* readers that will make you scream with laughter.

Michael: What treat do eye doctors give out on Halloween?

Matthew: I don't know. What?

Michael: Candy corneas.

Submitted by Michael and Matthew A., Elba, N.Y.

Joshua: What do you get if you cross Bambi with a ghost?

Belia: What?

Joshua: Bamboo.

Submitted by Joshua T., Cheltenham, Pa.

Jerry: Why do ghosts like to ride in elevators?

Woody: Why?

Jerry: It raises their spirits.

Submitted by Matthew R., Dix Hills, N.Y.

Jake: Why couldn't the ghost see its mom and dad?

Philip: I don't know.

Jake: Because they were trans-parents!

Submitted by Jacob C., O'Fallon, Ill.



Cont'd on next page

Rib-tickling Halloween Jokes



Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
He didn't have the guts!

What do skeletons say before they begin dining?
Bone appetit!

What do ghosts serve for dessert?
Ice scream!

When is it bad luck to meet a black cat?
When you're a mouse!

What do you call a fat Jack-O-Lantern?
Plumpkin!

What do you call a skeleton who won't work?
Lazy Bones!



What monster flies his kite in a rain storm?
Benjamin Franklinstein!

What do witches put on their hair?
Scare spray!

What was the favorite game at the ghosts' birthday party?
Hide and shriek!

What do the birds sing on Halloween?
Trick or tweet!

Who won the skeleton beauty contest?
No body!

Why don't ghosts like parties?
They have no body to dance with!

What was the witch's favorite subject in school?
Spelling!



The Bear Facts

Written and published by the students of:

Lafayette Elementary School
5704 Broad Branch Rd. NW
Washington, DC 20015
202-282-0116 (phone) 202-282-1126 (fax)

Vol. 12, No. 1 Oct. 29, 2014

Contributors: Manoela Barretto, Ian Barton, Katie Blick, Hannah Bocian, Alli Bowman, Tess Cassol-Pawson, Zoey Chineme, Addy Darnell, Ella Davis, Harper Dunn, Abigail Evans, Maddie Feldman, Zoe Friedman, Haley Howard, Ella Hunter, Paulina Inglima, Tusani Jackson, Sofia Jaime, Zoe Kaplan, Katie Kennedy, Brendan McKalip, Cyrah Meredith, Reign Mosby, Esther Nachbar-Seckel, Leah Perlmutter, Lucy Sakura, Mia Sampson, Natalie Sipress, Jamilah Springer, Sammy Taubman, Jei Whitt, Eliza Vassalo

Proofreaders: Students from Ms. Powell and Mr. Rogall's classes
Official folders of the Bear Facts: Ms. Campbell and Ms. Skubel's classes.

Advisor: Kathy Echave

Assisting: Nathan Wieand

Principal: Carrie Broquard

Interview with Spelling Bee Winner Nate Belman

by Catherine Hammes, 5G

Bear Facts: How does it feel to win the spelling bee?

Nate Belman: It feels really good. I'm just plain happy that I won.

BF: What are your thoughts on the spelling

NB: I think that the spelling bee is great.

should be **Coming Wednesday,**

February 13!

you were going to win?

I had a lot of time to study, and I had a lot of help.

any tips or tricks for



bee?
Everyone

the study



Groundhog Day

NB: Well, sort of. My mom, dad, and I had a spelling bee, so it was really helpful.

BF: How did you feel when you won?

NB: I was really nervous.

BF: Have you ever had any experience with spelling bees or was this your first time?

NB: No. Last year I tried to get into the spelling bee.

BF: Did anybody help you study and make an impact on your spelling?

NB: My family helped me study in my spare time, and I would like to make a shout-out to them.

BF: What was your favorite part of the whole preparation and spelling?

NB: My favorite part of the spelling bee was spelling and having fun. I also had a chance to see Mr. Shapiro host the next Thursday.



Happy Halloween



The Majestic Knights, Ballou's band marched in the inaugural parade.

President Obama's Inauguration ...Cont'd

The President gave his inaugural speech named, "Faith In America's Future." He talked about "we the people" to let us know that we must work together to make this country a better place for everyone. He talked about the poor and injustice. He also talked about women and equal pay in the workplace. He said that freedom is for everyone--not a few lucky people. He talked about accepting people's differences and working together.

After the speech, Beyonce sang the National Anthem and the President and his wife ate lunch at the Capitol with congressional leaders. Following the luncheon, the inaugural parade was held on Pennsylvania Avenue; the route stretched from the Capitol to the White House. The President and First Lady got out of their limousine called "the Beast" and walked along waving to people on the parade route. Their limousine now has the DC tags saying "Taxation Without Representation." There were a lot of floats and marching bands in the parade from different states around the country.

There were two inaugural balls that night. At one ball, the President and Michele Obama attended and danced with soldiers. They also attended another ball where they also danced and greeted guests. There was also a kid's inaugural concert on Saturday with Usher and Katy Perry. The Presidential Inauguration was a great event that had something wonderful for everyone!

Join To Jump



Jump Rope for the Heart is Wednesday, February 13.

by Angeline Daniels, Hannah Darnell, and Mia Pino, 4H

Every year half of a million people die of heart disease in the United States. Physical Education teacher, Ms. Margie McClure, wanted to do something about that. So, every year she throws a get-together for students in the gym and makes raising money for the American Heart Association fun by supplying us with prizes!

Who knew that raising five dollars or more for the AHA could be rewarded with two hours of dancing, jumping, and enjoying yourself? Having a program like this is both enjoyable and helpful. You

can get your own heart pumping by participating in this fun activity that helps others. Here are some words from Mrs. McClure.

Bear Facts: Hi Mrs. McClure. So, how long have you been helping to raise money for the American Heart Association?

Ms. McClure: Fourteen years.

BF: How much does Lafayette usually raise every year?

Ms. M: Over 20,000 each year.

BF: Compared to other schools who participate, how do we rank? Do we raise more or less?

Ms. M: We raise more than other schools in DC, and we rank among the top ten on the East Coast.

BF: What can kids do to prevent heart disease?

Ms. M: Kids should eat healthy food such as fruits and vegetables. Avoid foods high in fat. Get sixty minutes of moderate exercise every day. They should try different activities to find the right fit.

BF: What is your favorite part of the event--dancing, jumping, or giving out prizes?

Ms. M: My favorite is jumping, but I have to say that I love the dancing and music.

BF: What was the most impressive move you ever saw with the jump rope at the event?

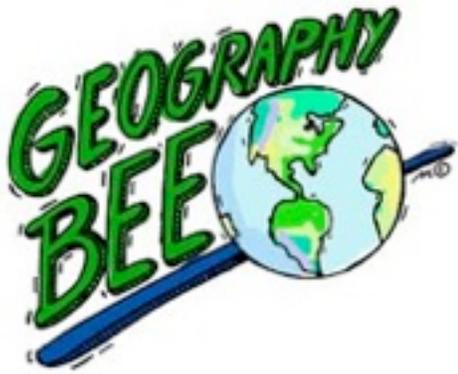
Ms. M: One year a boy ran up to the wall, jumped on the wall, bounced off and flipped over the jump rope. His name was Nigel, but please don't try it!

BF: What do you think the kids get most out of the activity. What lessons do they learn?

Ms. M: The most valuable lesson you can learn is that you have to take care of your heart because you only get one!

BF: Thank you for your time.





Lafayette's Geography Bee

by Maddie Breeden, 5JB

Which state has a climate for growing citrus fruits? California or Maine? If you knew that, you could probably be in the geography bee.



First place winner Daniel Freymann with Ms. Jackson.
photo by Yonatan Dawit, 5JJ.

This year was Lafayette's first geography bee in recent memory. The contestants were fifth graders Anaily Acosta, Torin O'Brien, Maddie Gold, Elijah Hayes-Miller, Daniel Freymann, and Brendan Klein. Fifth grade reading and social science teacher Ms. Jackson trained and taught the students all about geography using information prepared by the National Geographic Society. The practices started at the beginning of the school year, which means they have been practicing almost all year!

Third place went to Brendan Klein, Torin O'Brien placed second, and Daniel Freymann took first! The winner of the geography bee will go to the District Bee and then to the National Geography Bee held here in D.C.! It will be held at the National Geographic Museum this May. The top ten students compete live with Jeopardy host Alex Trebek moderating the Bee.

An interview with Ms. Jackson

Bear Facts: What's the next step after the geography bee?

Ms. Jackson: You take a paper and pencil test, and you go to the district bee. All the contestants get a T-shirt. Daniel gets a medal.

BF: On what question did Daniel win?

Ms. J: He won on a question about the river in Somalia.

BF: How hard did the contestants work?

Ms. J: All the students worked hard for three months. At school they studied three times a week. I'm really proud of all of them.



Battle of the Books

The first ever Lafayette Battle of the Books is now under way! Teams of fourth grade students are each reading five books and then participate in a fun tournament on April 18th. The books have been announced now: *Chocolate Fever*, *Turtle in Paradise*, *A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie Peanut Johnson*, *The Enormous Egg*, and *The Year of Miss Agnes*.
Happy Reading Fourth Graders!



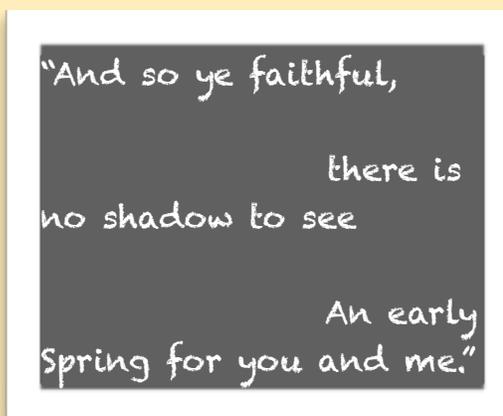
Spring is Just Around the Corner--According to Phil!

The Groundhog, also known as Punxsutawney Phil, **DID NOT** see his shadow when he popped out for a short time on Saturday morning at Gobbler's Knob in Pennsylvania. According to folklore that is welcome news because it means that winter is almost over and that spring will come early this year.

Groundhog's Day falls on Feb. 2 each year and has its early roots in Germany when farmers monitored the animal's behavior closely to make decisions about when to plant their crops. But, the funny-looking fellow and his special day have become even more popular since the hit movie *Groundhog's Day* came out in 1993.



Here's Phil at the 127th Groundhog Day Celebration on Saturday, February 2, 2013 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.



Phil announced this on his website: www.groundhog.org. Very poetic for a rodent, huh?

What Did Lafayette Students Predict:

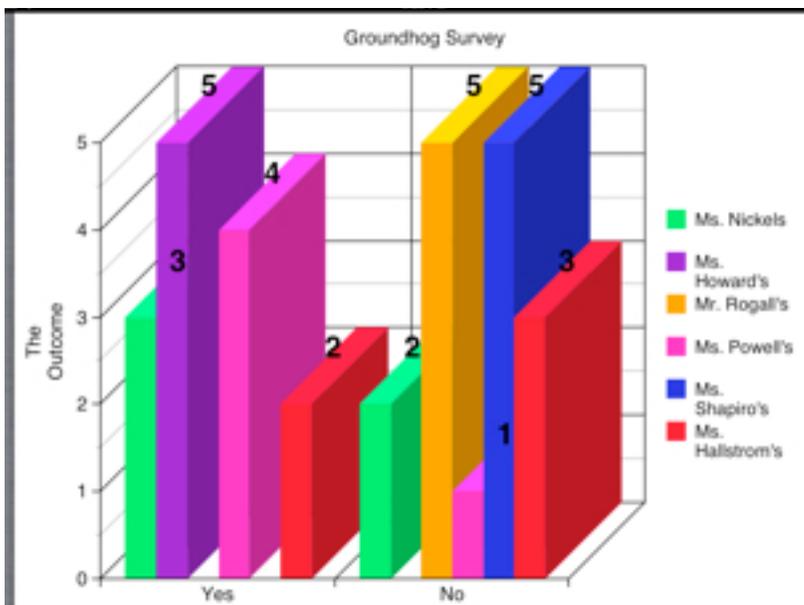
An Early Spring or Six More Weeks of Winter?

by Alanna Finn, 4F, & Sara Weich, 4C

Just before Groundhog's day, the *Bear Facts* surveyed 1st-4th graders about what they thought the outcome of Ground Hog's Day would be. Would Phil, the ground hog, see his shadow or not. When he sees his shadow that means six long weeks of winter, but if he doesn't see his shadow it means that Spring will arrive very soon.

Sara and Alanna interviewed a sampling of students from Ms. Howard's first grade and Ms. Nickel's second grade classes as well as third graders from Mr. Rogall and Ms. Powell's classes and fourth graders from Ms. Hallstrom and Ms. Shapiro's classes.

The results were split pretty evenly with 14 students thinking Phil, the groundhog would see his shadow and another 15 thinking that he wouldn't. However, all five students that we interviewed in Mr. Rogall's class and all five in Ms. Shapiro's class guessed correctly that Phil, the groundhog would NOT see his shadow, and they were right! Spring is right around the corner!



Opinion:

THE LUNCHROOM TRUTH

by Carly Nusbaum and Samantha Jolles, 4S

Have you ever thought that the time you have to actually eat your lunch is just too short to be true? Doesn't it seem like it's only about ten minutes and not the 20 minutes that they say we have? Well now two **Bear Facts** reporters are on the case.

First, we noticed our shrinking lunch time and decided to see what we could do to stop it from getting worse. We mentioned it to the teachers, but were not satisfied, so we realized something: *This isn't going to get any better.*

Next, we started to time our lunch periods. We decided to do this over several days in order to see if the time for lunch is really as short as it seems. The results you ask?

Well, we clocked the final lunch period, the one for second and fourth graders, and it was **always** between nine and twelve minutes long. **YES! Only a ten-and-a-half-minute average in which to actually eat!**



That's less time than most kids get in class to eat their morning snack!

The evidence is staring us in the face. Of our 20-minute lunch period, half the time or more is spent lining up, washing our hands, and waiting to get into the cafeteria. The last

time that we clocked it, we had twelve minutes and twenty seconds of actual lunch time. Sometimes kids in second and fourth grades have to continue eating into D.E.A.R time [past 1 p.m.] just to finish their lunches.

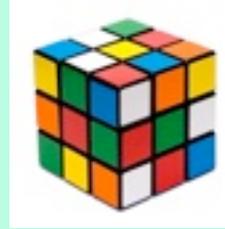
As reporters for this paper, we need to deliver the truth, and the truth is that by the final lunch period, we don't have enough time to eat. Let's stop the Shrinking Lunch Phenomenon. Please give us back our lunch time!

Editor's Note: There are four lunch periods. One for early childhood students followed by three periods for grades 1-5. First graders eat from 11:50 to 12:20, grades 3 and 5 eat from 12:20 to 12:40, and grades 2 and 4 are scheduled to eat from 12:40 to 1 p.m.

Rubik's Cube:

A Fifth Grade Craze

by Yonatan Dawit 5JJ



Do you know what the Rubik's Cube is? Well the Rubik's Cube is a 3-D twisty puzzle that's fun and addicting. It was first introduced in the

1970s and was wildly popular in the 1980s. With the advent of video games, its popularity slipped, but now the cube has been rediscovered by Lafayette fifth graders. One thing is for certain: If you buy a Rubik's Cube, it's going to be hard to put it down! Once you start it, you can't stop until it's solved.

The Rubik's Cube craze in the fifth grade started a month ago when Ms. Jackson brought one in and showed it to her class. Kids began buying and bringing in their Rubik's Cubes and have been stuck to them like glue ever since. At least ten people in her class have their own, and the Cube's popularity is spreading to other fifth grade classes.

Ms. Jackson has been showing her class how to solve them. The Cube comes in different sizes. There's a 3x3, a 4x4,



Emo Rubik and his invention that is still popular worldwide.

and a 5x5. The bigger it gets the harder it is to solve the Cube. The Cube's creator was Emo Rubik, a Hungarian sculptor and professor of architecture. At first his invention was called the Magic Cube. It was licensed by Rubik's company to be sold by Ideal Toy Corp and has been

produced ever since.

The Forgiving Valentine

by Gigi Cestari, Maddie Eggen and Ally Han, 4F

The icy Minnesota air cut through my thin fleece jacket. Minneapolis, MN was always chilly, even in summer. I could feel the slush of last week's snowstorm seep through my worn out Nike tennis shoes.

"Hey, Emma. Nice pants. Where'd you get 'em? Trashtopia?" Ugh. It was Tiffany Sanders, the most popular girl in the fifth grade.

"Yea, yea, TRASHTOPIA?" Her cronies Beth and McKayla jeered.

I hunched over, pretending not to hear. They kept teasing me about my yoga pants, tee shirt and even my backpack all the way to school.

First bell rang as I slid into my seat. "Atten-TION!" hollered my homeroom teacher, Ms. Bell.

"You know it is February 13, the day before Valentine's Day.

Remember your Valentines tomorrow for our party."

I smiled to myself. I had bought great Valentines. They had a cute bear for the girls and a bat for the boys, both holding a cherry lollipop, decorated with the white sugar words "LOVE".

After school, I showed Brenda, Steph, Tiffany, Beth, McKayla and Jasmine my awesome cards. "Lame!" Tiffany said, although I could see the envy in her eyes.

The next day at school, we all put our homemade or store-bought Valentines on the edge of our desks. I got up to use the bathroom. When I came back, my fantastic Valentines were gone! Who could've taken them? This was terrible! My Valentines were missing!

After games and treats, we passed out Valentines. "Wow, Tiffany! These Valentines are great! Are they homemade?" exclaimed my best friend, Alison. Homemade? That got my attention. I spun around and saw Tiffany hand Bryan Wells one of my bat Valentines! I tried to talk but no words came out. I choked back tears as I rushed out of the room, wiping my eyes on my sleeve. "Emma! Emma!" Alison called.

"Where are you going?" But nothing could turn me back now.

At dinner, I was silent and barely talked to anyone. I angrily stabbed my ziti noodles with my fork and rapidly glugged down my sparkling grape juice. Mom eyed me suspiciously. "Emma, after you finish your dessert, come to my room. We need to have little 'girl talk.'"

After my sandwich cookies I stomped up the glossy stairs, up to Mom's room. "Come on, honey," she said as she patted the spot beside her.

I flopped onto a pillow dramatically. "Why is my life have to be SO TERRIBLE?" I moaned.

"Okay, spill the beans, um, what's up? Boys? Grades?"

"AGH! Uck! Boys! You're crazy!" I shrieked as she stifled a laugh. "Okay, it's about Tiffany Sanders, you know, the popular girl?" My mom nodded, showing she was listening. I continued my dramatic groaning. "She is so mean to me! She says my clothes are ugly just because we get them from the thrift shop! I could take it for a while, but today she took her bullying way to far. She stole my Valentines and told everyone she had MADE THEM!" I burst into angry tears. "I'm going to get back at her!"

"Okay honey, but remember—forgiveness is better than revenge."

"Mom, you're just supposed to nod and agree with me! Not turn against me!"

"Okay, okay," she raised her hand in mock exasperation.

All night while I was making valentines, I thought about Moms wise words. As I made Tiffany's valentine, I wrote one quote inside, "Forgiveness is always better than revenge."





Let's Have Some PUN!



by Rosalia Inglima 5JL

Do you love to laugh? Want to read something funny? Err, I mean, Punny? Enjoy these puns that are sure to tickle your funny bone!

A girl got fired from the hotdog stand for putting her hair in a bun.

Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.

He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how a Mercedes Benz.

A young boy swallowed some coins and was taken to the hospital. When his mom called to ask how he was doing, a nurse said, "No change yet."

Sleeping comes so naturally to me, I could do it with my eyes closed.

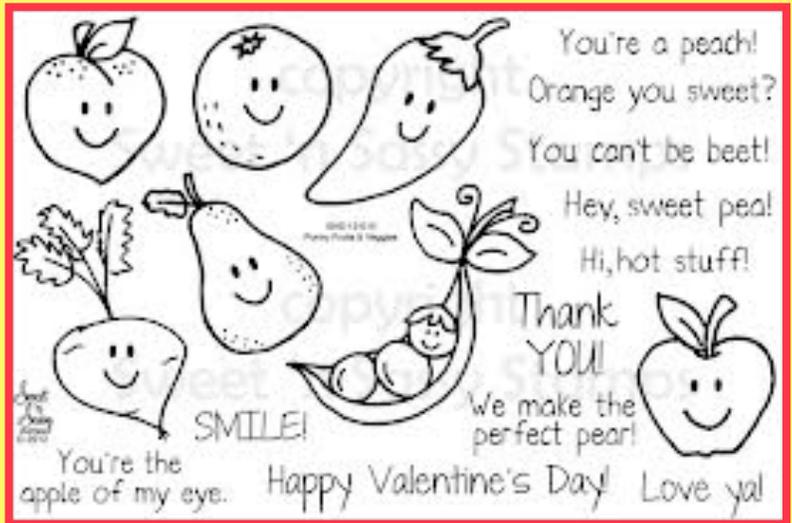
The coffee tasted like mud because it was ground a couple of minutes ago.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger and then it hit me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

I used to have a fear of hurdles, but then I got over it.

In the winter my dog wears his coat but in the summer, my dog wears his coat and pants.



TRY IT!

Fill in the missing word in these incomplete puns! Use words from the word bank to complete the pun.



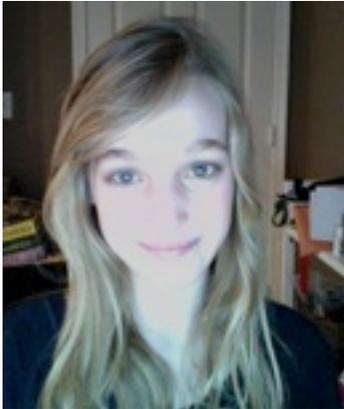
1. I used to work at a clock shop. It was really fun and I made my own_____.
2. To write with a broken pencil is_____.
3. What is the difference between a nicely dressed man on a unicycle and a poorly dressed man on a tricycle? A _____.
4. When William joined the army, he didn't like the phrase, "Fire at _____."
5. A boy got fired from his job loading _____.
6. What do you call an alligator in a vest? An _____!
7. How do you fit more pigs on your farm? Build a _____!
8. What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four _____.

Word Bank

Tire
hours
investigator
sty-scraper
seconds
cannons
will
pointless

Life After Lafayette

by Maya Canady, 5JL, and Zoe Dolge, 5JJ



Alison Willsey

Recently, we interviewed Alison Willsey, a former Lafayette student who now attends 7th grade at Alice Deal Middle School. We asked her about her life now. Here's what she said:

Bear Facts: How long were you at Lafayette?

Allison: Seven years.

BF: Who were your teachers?

AW: In Pre-K, I had Ms. Ghamarian. In Kindergarten, I had Ms. Gaddy and then Ms. Baldwin for first grade. I had Ms. Tepfer [Ms. Powell], Ms. Freund, and Mr. Nick in third through sixth grades.

BF: Who was your favorite teacher?

AW: I really enjoyed third grade with Ms. Tepfer.

BF: Which do you like more Deal or Lafayette?

AW: I like them both the same.

BF: What is different between Deal and Lafayette?

AW: Deal is a lot more strict, but there are more activities.

BF: What extracurricular activities do you participate in at Deal?

AW: I run track. I belong to the Photography club, and I work on the school newspaper.

BF: What is your schedule?

AW: There are seven periods in the school day at Deal. Period 1 is Science for me. Period 2 is History, and Period 3 is French. Then Period 4 is Lunch/Recess. In the afternoon for periods 5, 6 and 7, I have Pre-Algebra, Music and English.

BF: Do you feel that Lafayette prepared you for Middle School?

AW: Yes.

BF: What high school do you want to attend?

AW: Wilson or St. John's. I haven't made up my mind yet.



For over 75 years, Alice Deal has been the next step for most students after they leave Lafayette.

Introducing *Alvin and Paws* Cartoon

Editor's Note: For two years now, fifth grader Lauren Chineme has been an artist for the *Bear Facts*. This year she has created a cartoon strip about two bears named Alvin and Paws. Called *At The Pond*. Enjoy Lauren's art and the funny adventures of these two bear brothers.



Dear All You Wonderful Staff,

We are happy to give a shout out for your winter birthdays. We hope you spend your birthdays happily! This means you--Ms. Echave, Ms. Haigler, Mr. Hover, Ms. Main, Mr. McCoy, Ms. Phillips, Ms. Porter, Mr. Thurston, and any other staff members whose winter birthday we don't know!

--Daisy Blumenthal, 4C, Angeline Daniels, 4F, and Sophie Gross, 4C

Blue Whales by the Numbers

by Torin O'Brien, 5JJ

Blue whales may be the biggest things ever to roam the earth, but that's not the only record they break.

When full grown, these gentle giants eat up to 40 million krill per day. The calves (kids) gain 200 pounds per day from their mother's milk, which they drink 450 pounds of every day! A calf is born 18 feet long and they can weigh 1.8 to 2.6 tons.

Blues are getting rarer and rarer, with only about 4,000 left. Whales were very valuable, for a whaler could extract 120 barrels of oil from just one. Because they are so spread out, they have a cry (that kind of sounds like a happy groan) that is approximately 188 decibels, louder than a jet engine.

When fully grown, their tongues alone can weigh up to 4 tons. Their tail flukes are as wide as the wingspan of a small airplane.



Blues are fast, and can swim 30 miles per hour if startled. They can send spurts of water higher than 25 and have two blowholes for that purpose.

They live for a long time, 80-100 years. Though normally shy and solitary, when migrating, they have been known to mingle with fin whales.

Fox Alert

by Sophie Gross, 4C

Warning! For more than a month now, foxes have been seen wandering around the Barnaby Woods neighborhood I know. I have seen a couple of them.

There are more than 30 foxes reported to be living in Rock Creek Park. Foxes can be dangerous. Foxes can and will eat small animals. They can carry rabies and pass that disease on to humans, too.

So, if you see a fox stay away from it. It would most likely not hurt you, but just to be safe, don't get too close. Also, keep puppies, kittens and other small pets inside and safe.



Editor's Note:

Because of Sophie Gross's report of seeing foxes around her Barnaby Woods neighborhood, we checked with a park ranger who directed us to this information. [See story to the right.]

He told us that, "Animals do not recognize the boundaries of the park like people do. So, it's possible that foxes could be seen in neighborhoods that are nearest the park and its tributaries."

These sightings wouldn't be as common as, say, deer sightings because foxes are a lot harder to spot. You know how the simile goes:

...AS SLY AS A FOX!

How Many Deer, Raccoons, Foxes, Coyotes And Bears Are There in Rock Creek Park?

There are many kinds of animals in Rock Creek Park. Approximately 340 White-tailed deer make their home in the park. In 1987, a population of deer decided to make their home here year round. Since then, the population has been increasing--they have no real enemies to control their population other than cars.

Rock Creek Park has the largest density of raccoons in the United States. We have red and gray fox in the park, but less of the gray fox. Visitors often think that foxes look like large cats or small dogs. Park employees believe that there are six to eight fox dens scattered throughout the park.

Coyote sightings in the park were first reported in 2004. Sightings of coyotes in the neighborhoods nearest the park have increased. Visitors walking along Rock Creek may see signs of beavers, [beavers chew on the trees] or on a lucky day, they may even spot one! There are no bears in the park!

Foxy Facts To Know

Fact 1 - Definition: A fox is an alert, carnivorous mammal with a pointed snout and ears and a bushy tail, or brush.

Fact 2 - Foxes belong to the Canidae family. There are 37 species which are referred to as foxes, of which only 12 types actually belong to the Vulpes genus of 'true foxes'.

Fact 3 - Most foxes are predators that do not hunt in packs.

Fact 4 - Foxes are small to medium-sized canids (slightly smaller than the average-sized domestic dog.)

Fact 5 - The black or silver-gray fox is a variety of the American red fox, producing a fur which was once of great value.

Fact 6 - The cross-gray and woods-gray foxes are other varieties of the same species.

Fact 7 - The most common type is the the red fox (Vulpes vulpes).

Fox Fact or Fiction?

According to Mr. Aesop, foxes are sly, secretive, and playful. Well, they are! So what?

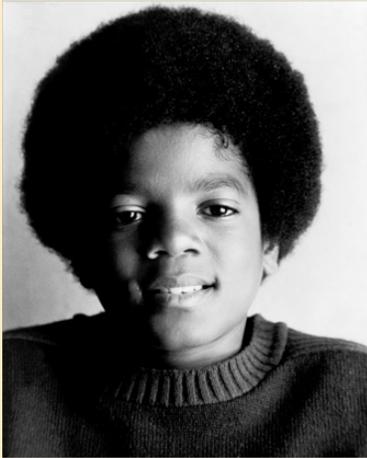
The Humane Society, says that those of us living in cities like DC should consider ourselves lucky to spot a fox passing through the neighborhood. Both grey and red foxes are well adapted to urban life and provide an important service by keeping mice and other rodent populations down.

Your adult cats are safe, but be watchful of kittens and small dogs. Oh yes, you shouldn't let your hamsters and guinea pigs play outside, but who does that anyway?



Michael Jackson: The King of Pop

Editor's Note: Aidan's choice of Michael Jackson is an especially good fit for February which is African American History month. Michael Jackson's talent impressed and embraced everyone and he has a right to be called the King of Pop.



Michael as a child.

by Aidan Kohn Murphy, 3Y

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958. He was born to the proud parents Joseph and Katherine Jackson. He was the eighth child of the Jackson family and started the band the Jackson 5 with his siblings in 1964. The Jackson 5 was a band with all brothers and "ABC" was the title of one of their most famous songs.

His solo career began in 1971, and by the early 1980's he had become a really important musician. He also wrote music and videos that made people think differently about black and white people.

He is often called the King of Pop because he wrote a ton of pop music. Michael Jackson's album, *Thriller*, was the most popular album in 1982. He also broke many world records with 13 Grammy Awards and 26 American Music Awards. He had 13 number one songs in the U.S., and 400 million records were sold in the world during his life. On what would have been Michael Jackson's 52nd birthday, he became the



The Jackson Five in the 1970s.

artist whose songs were downloaded the most.

Michael Jackson also made songs with other people including "Papa was Rolling Stone," with the Temptations, "You haven't Done Nothing," with Stevie Wonder, "The Dude," with Quincy Jones, and "Say, Say, Say," with Paul McCartney. That's just to name just a few.



The King of Pop

Can you name Michael's three sisters?

Answer: Janet, LaToya & Rebbie



Teacher's Music Interests:

Which of Today's Music Stars Do Teachers Like Best?

by Yonatan Dawit, 5JJ

Bear Facts was wondering how much teachers know about today's music scene. We selected some present day famous singers and rappers and asked teachers to tell us which performer they like the best. This was a very small, very informal poll, and we're thinking of including more teachers and staff next time. The teachers we chose this time taught fourth and fifth grades or were specialists.

It will be no surprise to student music fans to learn that Rihanna came in first in our informal teacher poll or that Usher came in second. It may be more of a surprise that no teacher chose One Direction, Nicki Minaj, or Carly Rae Jepsen. Flo Rida and 2 Chainz tied for third with the same number of teacher votes--one each. The results are below. If you don't know some of these popular music stars of today, check the reference guide to see the names of their hits.

Nicki Minaj	Rihanna	Usher	One Direction	Flo Rida	Carly Rae Jepsen	2 Chainz
None	4 votes	2 votes	None	1 vote	None	1 vote

Reference Guide

Nicki Minaj: is the singer and rapper of *Super Bass* and *Starships*.

Rihanna: is the singer of *Umbrella* and *Sell Me Candy*.

Usher: is the singer of *Scream* and *OMG*.

One Direction: are the singers of *What Makes You Beautiful*.

Flo Rida: is the singer of *Wild Ones* and *Good Feeling*.

Carly Rae Jepsen: is the singer of *Call Me Maybe* and *This Kiss*.

2 Chainz: is the singer of *Spend It* and *Birthday Song*.



Teachers' Choice: Rihanna

Dear Big Bear,

I have really bad allergies, so I can't play games at recess with my friends. What can I do?

-Allergies

Dear Allergies,

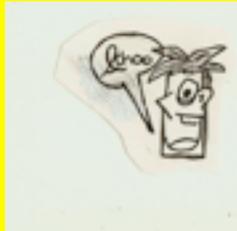
Do you have any medicine? If you do, then have your mom give it to the nurse and take it when you need it.

- Big Bear

Dear Big Bear,

I want to have a birthday party, but I do not know who to invite. I have friends from camp and friends from school. They do not like each other so I do not want to have them together at one party. Who do I not invite?

- Friend Pr



Dear Friend Problems,

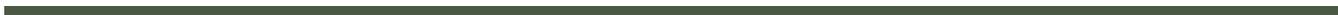
Have two parties. One with your camp friends and one with your school friends. If that does not work, tell them to work it out. It's your party, and if they don't want to behave, then they are not really your friends.

- Big Bear

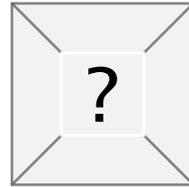
**If you need a
Bear Facts box or
questions that h**



**e Big Bear, put your entry in the
Next edition, please write Big Bear
with the holidays, as we will be doing
holiday edition.**







B LACK
HISTORY
MONTH

Extreme Green Team Is Honored

by Claire Ruppert, sixth grader

On May 7 at the Marian Koshland Science Museum, Lafayette's Extreme Green team was invited to a party to honor them for their efforts to help Lafayette go green.

The Extreme Green team is under the direction of fifth grade teacher Mr. David Gregal. It consists of a group of ten dedicated students from various grades who are committed to making Lafayette a more energy-efficient school. Members include sixth graders Katy Berg, Oriana Carletto, Nicole Hesse, Andrea Quitugua, Claire Ruppert, Marla Solow, Lila Weitzner, and fifth grader Eva Shapiro. Two second graders, Jessica Riegel and Claire Schmitt are also members.

Sixth graders Claire, Nicole, Andrea, Katy, Lila and Marla accompanied Mr. Gregal to the party and received a small plaque which they will proudly display in either the main office or in Mr. Gregal's classroom.

Among some of the accomplishments of the Extreme Green team this year are adding green tips to the morning announcements and having the Green Scene column appear in the **Bear Facts**. They are still working on the possibility of trying a 'lights out' DEAR time. Most of all, they have helped to raise awareness for the need to begin to recycle high-use school items such as paper and printer cartridges.

The Bear Is Back!

The **Bear Facts** is back! The newspaper written and read by Lafayette is just on here a help to than ever:



- Submit a drawing**
 - Write an article**
 - Ask for BIG BEAR's advice**
 - Submit your creative writing**
 - Place an ad**
 - Take some pictures**
 - Put your work in the *Bear Facts* box on your team by Friday of each week for placement in the next issue.**
 - Or email your work to Lafayette.Newspaper@gmail.com**
-